

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 NEA-10 SP-02 INR-07 INRE-00

DHA-02 ORM-02 IO-13 CCO-00 /060 W

-----171733Z 068307 /44

Z 171600Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 5411

INFO AMEMBASSY CAPETOWN NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JOHAN ESBURG NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MAPUTO 059

STADIS////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MILI, MZ, RH

SUBJ: RHODESIAN POW PILOT REQUESTS USG ASSISTANCE

1. MIRON MARKUS, ISRAELI CITIZEN AND RHODESIAN IMMIGRANT WALKED INTO EMBASSY APPROXIMATELY 1500 LOCAL TIME AND ASKED TO SPEAK WITH EMBOFFS. MARKUS, WHO WAS ATTIRED IN LOCAL PRISON ATTIRE, IDENTIFIED HIMSELF TO CHARGE AND EMBOFF AS PILOT OF RHODESIAN-BASED AIRCRAFT WHICH STRAYED ACROSS RHODESIAN BORDER AND CRASHED IN MOZAMBIQUE DURING EARLY HOURS OF SEPTEMBER 4, 1975. MARKUS CLAIMED HE WAS FLYING FROM BULAWAYO RHODESIA TO PETUSBURG BY WAY OF MASSINA IN SOUTH AFRICA.

2. MARKUS CLAIMED THAT BAD WEATHER CAUSED HIM TO STRAY OFF FLIGHT PATH. AS HE DESCENDED THROUGH CLOUDS AND APPROACHED GROUND, HE CLAIMED HE WAS SHOT IN LEFT HIP.

HE LOST CONSCIOUSNESS AND HIS BROTHER-IN-LAW WHO HAS STUDENT PILOT'S LICENSE LANDED PLANE NEAR MALVERNIA. UPON LANDING MARCUS CLAIMS FRELIMO ARMED FORCES (FPLM) SHOT HIM
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TWICE MORE AND KILLED HIS BROTHER-IN-LAW. MARCUS WAS FLOWN TO MAPUTO ON SEPT 5, AND TAKEN TO MAPUTO MILITARY HOSPITAL. AFTER WOUNDS WERE TREATED AND HE WAS RELEASED FROM HOSPITAL, HE WAS KEPT PRISONER IN A LAUNDRY ROOM BEHIND A HOUSE IN A RESIDENTIAL SECTION OF MAPUTO. MARCUS CLAIMED ROOM HAD NO WINDOWS. HE TOLD EMBOFFS HE REPEATEDLY ASKED GUARDS FOR ADDITIONAL MEDICAL TREATMENT BECAUSE WOUNDS WERE NOT HEALING

PROPERLY, AND WAS RETURNED TO MILITARY HOSPITAL ONCE. HOWEVER, HE CLAIMS THAT TREATMENT HE ASKED FOR WAS NOT GIVEN. HE WAS TAKEN BACK TO HOUSE AFTER TWO WEEKS IN HOSPITAL AND KEPT IN SAME ROOM UNDER GUARD. HE THEN WENT ON HUNGER STRIKE TO PROTEST POOR FOOD AND LACK OF MEDICAL ATTENTION. WHEN VISITED BY A COMMANDANT OF FPLM, HE WAS TOLD THAT "YOU WILL TALK WHEN WE WANT YOU TO." MARKUS SAID HE THEN MADE UP HIS MIND TO ESCAPE, AND AFTER WATCHING GUARDS AND LOSSENING LOCKS AND DOOR LATCHES, LEFT LAUNDRY ROOM WHEN GUARDS WENT IN TO SLEEP AT DAWN JANUARY 17. HE CLAIMS HE WAS PICKED UP BY POLICE ONCE TODAY, BUT WALKED AWAY FROM POLICE OFFICE WHEN AGENTS WENT TO LUNCH AND LEFT HIM UNGUARDED IN OFFICE. HE WENT TO RAILWAY STATION, WHICH IS NEAR EMBASSY, THEN DECIDED TO ENTER EMBASSY AND REQUEST ASSISTANCE.

3. MARKUS FIRST ASKED FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM, BUT LATER ADMITTED THAT WHAT HE REALLY WANTED WAS ASSISTANCE IN GETTING OUT OF MOZAMBIQUE AND TO GET TO RHODESIA, SOUTH AFRICA, OR ISRAEL.

4. MARKUS DENIED MALTREATMENT, BUT COMPLAINED THAT WOUNDS WERE IMPROPERLY TREATED, AND HE WAS GIVEN ONLY RICE AND WATER AND OCCASSIONALLY A PIECE OF BREAD TO EAT.

5. CHARGE PLANS FOR FOLLOWING REASONS TO ADVISE MARKUS THAT WE CANNOT GIVE HIM ASSISTANCE:

A. MARKUS DOES NOT APPEAR MEET CRITERIA FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM STATUS AS OUTLINED 7 FAM 229.
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B. HE IS NOT AN AMERICAN CITIZAN

C. ALTHOUGH HE IS BEING HELD AGAINST HIS WILL, HE IS NOT BEING MISTREATED AND HAS NOT BEEN SUBJECT TO TORTURE.

D. EMBASSY HAS NO WAY OF KNOWING FOR SURE WHETHER MARKUS WAS ON A LEGITIMATE FLIGHT OR WHETHER HE WAS, AS THE GRPM ALLEGES, ON A RHODESIAN RECONNAISSANCE MISSION

E. GRANTING MARKUS ASYLUM AND ASSISTANCE OF ANY TYPE COULD GIVE APPEARANCE THAT USG IS AIDING AND ABETTING RHODESIANS AND ENGLUF US IN POLITICAL CONTROVESY ULTIMATELY ENDANGERING USG-MOZAMBIQUE RELATIONS.

F. MARKUS APPEARS TO BE MORE INTERESTED IN OBTAINING HIS RELEASE AND REPATRIATION TO RHODESIA, SOUTH AFRICA OR ISRAEL RATHER THAN OBTAINING ASYLUM IN THE US, ALTHOUGH THIS IS INITIALLY WHAT HE ASKED FOR.

6. CHARGE INTENDS TO RECOMMEND TO MARKUS--
UNLESS DEPT DOES NOT CONCUR BY FLASH TELEGRAM -- THAT HE TURN
HIMSELF OVER TO MOZAMBIQUE AUTHORITIES OR UNHCR.
CARSON

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NNN

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